

Remarks

This Amendment is in response to the Final Office Action dated **December 24, 2008**. The Office Action allowed claims 1-6, 9-11 and 15-18 and rejected claims 12-14 and 19-24 under 35 USC § 102(b) over Vardi et al. (WO 99/36002).

Claims 12, 14 and 24 are herein canceled without prejudice or disclaimer in order to facilitate issuance of the allowed claims. Dependent claims 13 and 19-21, previously dependent upon cancelled claim 12, are herein amended to depend from previously allowed claims. Claims 13 and 15 are amended to fix typographical errors. Reconsideration in view of the above amendments and following remarks is requested.

Claim Rejections – Section 102

The Office Action rejected claims 12-14 and 19-24 under 35 USC § 102(b) over Vardi et al. Without acquiescing to the validity of any rejection asserted in the Office Action, Applicant cancels independent claims 12 and 24 and dependent claim 14, thereby mooted the rejection of these claims.

Dependent claim 13 has been amended to fix typographical errors and to make claim 13 depend from allowed claim 1. Support for this amendment can be found at least in Figure 1 and in the Specification on page 6, lines 28-30. Claim 13 is allowable for at least the reasons claim 1 is allowable.

Claim 15 has been amended to fix typographical errors. Specifically, two commas have been added and a period removed.

Dependent claims 19 and 20 have been amended to depend from allowed claim 15. Support for the amendment to claim 19 can be found at least in the Specification on page 3, lines 26-27. Support for the amendment to claim 20 can be found at least in the Specification on page 3, lines 28-29. Claims 19 and 20 are allowable for at least the reasons claim 15 is allowable.

Dependent claim 21 has been amended to depend from allowed claim 1. Support for the amendment claim 21 can be found at least in the Specification on page 8, lines 24-35. Claim 21 is allowable for at least the reasons claim 1 is allowable.

In light of the foregoing, the rejection of claims 12-14 and 19-24 is moot and Applicant requests withdrawal of the rejections.

Withdrawn Claims

Applicant requests that previously withdrawn claims 7 and 8 be reinstated and allowed. These claims depend indirectly from allowed claim 1 are patentable for at least the reasons claim 1 is allowable.

Conclusion

Based on the foregoing, this application is believed to be in condition for allowance. Applicant requests favorable consideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-11, 13 and 15-23.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's undersigned representative at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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